CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) A system for providing telephony service over the Internet, comprising in combination:

a call client downloadable to a user device located on the Internet, the call client operable to communicate both media and first call-control data across the Internet according to a non-native protocol, the media including voice data, wherein the call client includes a port scan module to identify Internet Protocol ports open for communication;

a database for determining whether a user associated with the user device is authorized to communicate via a call with a second user accessible through a Public-Switched Telephone Network (PSTN);

a gateway located at an interface between the Internet and the PSTN, the gateway operable to communicate according to a native protocol;

a Packet-switched Telephony Service Provider (PTSP) operable to communicate both the media and the first call-control data across the Internet with the call client according to the non-native protocol, the ~~PSTP~~ PTSP being further operable to communicate both the media and second call-control data across the Internet ~~with~~ to the gateway according to the native protocol so that the call can be connected to the PSTN; and

a call logger associated with the PTSP and operable to track calls.

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93. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 92, the PTSP including a call director and a plurality of call handlers, the call director operable to receive the first call-control data in the non-native protocol over the Internet from a plurality of user devices and distribute further call processing to the plurality of call handlers.

94. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 92, further comprising:

a plurality of gateways; and

a proxy server associated with the PTSP, the proxy server operable to receive and distribute calls across the plurality of gateways according to one or more non-proprietary protocols, including the native protocol.

95. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 92, the call client being operable to transmit both the media and the first call control data in packets formatted according to the HTTP protocol.

96. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 92, wherein the native protocol is selected from H.323, SIP, and MGCP, and wherein messages according to the non-native protocol are in a format selected from UDP, TCP, and HTTP.

97. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 92, wherein the non-native protocol includes a set of data messages in a proprietary format, the set of data messages including a telephone number, a user device IP address, a port number, and a user identification token.

98. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 92, wherein the call client receives an "unauthorized" message if, by accessing the database, the PTSP determines that the user does not have a sufficient balance to place the call.

99. (New) The system of Claim 92, wherein the call client is operable to accept a selection of an address book entry corresponding to a target indicator.

100. (New) The system of Claim 92, wherein the media format of the native protocol is in the G.711 codec.

101. (New) The system of Claim 92, wherein the PTSP is further operable to communicate both the media and the first call-control data with the call client over ports selected by the call client's port scan module.

102. (New) A system for providing telephony service over the Internet, comprising in combination:

a user device connected to the Internet and operable to communicate call control information across the Internet according to a non-native protocol, wherein the non-native protocol provides information on call quality;

a gateway located at an interface between the Internet and the Public-Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), the gateway operable to communicate media and call-control information according to a native protocol;

a proxy server operable to receive call control information according to the native protocol and select a gateway to the public switched telephone network;

a database for determining whether a user associated with the user device is authorized to communicate via a call with a second user accessible through the PSTN;

a call server connected to the Internet and operable to communicate first call-control data across the Internet with the user device according to the non-native protocol, and also operable to communicate second call-control data across the Internet with a proxy server according to the native protocol; and

a call logger operable to track calls.

103. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the non-native protocol provides information on call quality through pings between the user device and a PTSP associated with the call server.

104. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the user device is operable to accept a selection of an address book entry corresponding to a target indicator.

105. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the user device communicates media with the gateway according to a native protocol that includes Real Time Protocol over User Datagram Protocol.

106. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the user device is operable to transmit both the media and the first call-control data in packets formatted according to the HTTP protocol.

107. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the native protocol is selected from H.323, SIP, and MGCP, and wherein messages according to the non-native protocol are in a format selected from UDP, TCP, and HTTP.

108. (New) The system of Claim 102, wherein the non-native protocol includes a set of data messages in a proprietary format, the set of data messages including a telephone number, a user device IP address, a port number, and a user identification token.

109. (New) A method for providing telephony service over the Internet, comprising in combination:

receiving a call request from a user device connected to the Internet, wherein the call request includes a telephone number corresponding to a PSTN subscriber, and wherein the call request is in accordance with a non-native protocol;

selecting a call server to process the call request, wherein the call server includes a call director operable to determine whether the user device has used up a maximum number of minutes;

launching a call handler, wherein the call handler receives the call request in the non-native protocol, wherein the call handler converts the call request to a native protocol, and wherein the native protocol is selected from H.323, SIP, and MGCP;

transmitting the call request in the native protocol to a gateway, wherein the gateway implements the native protocol, and wherein the gateway is operable to forward the call request to the PSTN subscriber;

transmitting a call status indicator to the user device;

communicating media between the user device and the gateway according to Real Time Protocol over User Datagram Protocol; and

logging information about calls so that call durations may be determined.

110. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the user device is operable to execute a telephony client.

111. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the user device receives an "unauthorized" message if the call director determines that the user does not have a sufficient balance to place the call.

112. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the user device is operable to accept a selection of an address book entry corresponding to a target indicator.

113. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the user device is operable to transmit the call request in packets formatted according to the HTTP protocol.

114. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein messages according to the non-native protocol are in a format selected from UDP, TCP, and HTTP.

115. (New) The method of Claim 109, further comprising selecting the gateway from a plurality of gateways based on at least one gateway selection criterion.

116. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the user device is a device selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a mobile phone, a wireless handheld, and a packet-switched telephone.